



COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA

Office of the Governor

W. Tayloe Murphy, Jr.
Secretary of Natural Resources

P.O. Box 1475
Richmond, Virginia 23218

(804) 786-0044
Fax: (804) 371-8333
TTY: (804) 786-7765

September 22, 2005

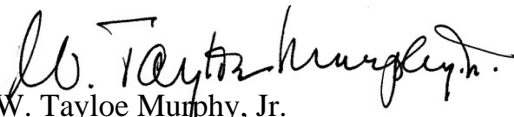
To the Citizens of Virginia:

I am announcing today the release of the guidelines for grants from the Water Quality Improvement Fund that was established by the Water Quality Improvement Act of 1997 (§10.1 – 2117 of the Code of Virginia). The act requires that the Secretary of Natural Resources issue guidance for point and nonpoint source grants from the Water Quality Improvement Fund. Because the act was amended this year by the General Assembly and Governor Warner, it was necessary to revise the existing guidance that has been in place since 1999.

The fund is the principal source of state cost-share money to implement the nutrient and sediment reduction “Tributary Strategies” prepared pursuant to the Chesapeake 2000 Agreement and the *Code of Virginia*. The fund also provides grants for on the ground practices to control nonpoint source pollution in watersheds in Virginia that do not drain to the Chesapeake Bay, our “Southern Rivers.”

The funds expended under this program will lead directly to improved water quality in Virginia that will benefit all of our citizens. This program reaffirms Virginia’s commitment to restore our streams, lakes, rivers and the Chesapeake Bay and to share in the cost of pollution reduction activities with our local governments, publicly-owned treatment plants and citizens.

Sincerely,


W. Tayloe Murphy, Jr.